

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2001-016-C - ORDER NO. 2001-046
JANUARY 17, 2001

IN RE: Request of United Telephone Company of the) ORDER GRANTING
Carolinas for Revisions to its General) PETITION FOR
Subscriber Service Tariff (Tariff No. 2000-) INVESTIGATION
781).)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition for Investigation of Tariff No. 2000-781 filed by United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (United). The tariff notified the Commission of price increases on Directory Assistance Services, Operator Services, Directory Listings, Custom Calling Services, Billed Number Screening, Message Telecommunications Service and Sprint Solutions Packages-Residence and Business.

Pursuant to the provisions of United's alternative regulation plan guidelines, as approved in Docket No. 98-294-C, the Commission may, on its own motion or in response to a petition from any interested party, investigate whether a proposed tariff is in the public interest. Order No. 1999-140 at 7-8. Further, the Order recognizes United's acceptance of the provision of BellSouth's Consumer Price Protection Plan as set forth in Order No. 96-19. Order No. 1999-140 at 7-8. Therefore, should opposition to changes in price, terms and/or conditions be filed by the Staff or any other interested party, the burden of proof is on United to show why the proposed change is in the public interest, not on the party to show why the proposed change is not in the public interest.

The Consumer Advocate states in its Petition that the proposed price increases have not been shown to be in the public interest. We agree that this is the case at the present time, but that United should be given the opportunity to demonstrate that the changes in the proposed tariff are in the public interest. Accordingly, we grant the Consumer Advocate's Petition for Investigation pursuant to United's alternative regulation plan guidelines, hold that a proceeding shall be established on this matter, and grant the request of the Consumer Advocate to be admitted as a party of record in the proceeding.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)